MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Sir, the term "Group Dialling Facility" is generally referred to the inter-dialling between a group of rural exchanges. Direct dialling facility already exist between metropolitan towns and the adjoining exchanges in their periphery.

(b) All the four metropolitan cities—Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras already have direct dialling facility with the exchanges in their periphery as per statement attached. *(See below)*

(c) The Government has under its consideration a scheme for rationalising the tariff between the exchange system of towns and adjoining exchanges in their periphery. In some cases the charges, which is yet to be decided, may be cheaper than the existing STD charges.

(d) The dialling facility between metropolitan towns and the peripheral exchanges already exist. The decision on introduction of the revised tariff is yet to be taken.

Statement

List of exchanges on the periphery of metropolitan towns which are having direct dialling facility

Delhi to	1. Noida (Surajpur)
	2. Sonepat
	3. Loni
	4. Shahdara East
	5. Gurgaon
	6. Ghaziabad
	7. Faridabad
	8. Bahadurgarh
	9. Ballabgarh
	10. Noida
Bombay to	1. New Bombay
	2. Basein
	3. Kalyan
Calcutta to	1. Bhatpara
	2. Chinsura
	3. Diamond Harbour
	4. Kalyani
	5. Tribeni
Madras to	1. Ponneri
	2. Tiruvallur
	3. M.M. Nagar (EPZ)
	4. Gummidipundi
	5. Guduvancheri

Improvement in aviation technology

*359. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is far behind in aviation techonology in the world;

(b) if so, what are the datails thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to improve navigation and communication facilities and avoid wastage of fuel?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As a develpoing country, India may not be at par with industrialised nations in the matter of aviation technology. It would not, however, be correct to say that India is far behind.

(c) Modernisation of communication and navigation facilities at airports is a continuous process. Modern equipments like Airport Surveillan Radar (ASR) Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar (MSSR), instrument Landing System (ILS), Very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR) have been installed at several airports. More such equipment are being procured for installation. An integrated project has also been approved for modernisation of Air Traffic Control at Bomby and Delhi airports.

To conserve aircraft fuel, air route rationalisation has been carried out by National Airports Authority in consultation with Air Headquarters.

Filling up of vacancies in United Bank of India in Assam

*360 SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the manpower position of the United Bank of India in Assam is far from satisfactory; and

(b) what are the reasons that the Central Government have not been filling up the vacancies in these Banks for a long time and the claim of the local employees are often denied by filling up the vacancies with employees from outside the State?